FEDERATION — but bans on movement remain

TRINIDAD, April 3rd: At a public meeting held in Port of Spain on Thursday, March 17th, following the Inter-Migration Conference, speakers were the Hon. E. M. Gairy (Grenada); N. W. Manley, Chief Minister, Jamaica; F. W. Glasspole, Minister of Labour, Jamaica; V. C. Bird (Antigua); and J. Baynes (St. Vincent).

Manley, the principal speaker, maintained that if this opportunity for Federation were lost, it would be a great disaster for the West Indies. He made no mention of the bans imposed on freedom of movement of West Indians within the territories proposed for Federation.

He condemned people who split parties, forgetting it was he and the Right opportunists who had split the P.N.P. of Jamaica. The Hon. E. M. Gairy and the Hon. J. Baynes were roughly handled by the crowd of over 5,000 people for the lack of content in their speeches and their demagogy. They took their seats with great loss of prestige.

The Hon. R. B. Gajraj, observer from the Interim Government of Guiana, was stoutly booed for three minutes before he could speak. He was asked about Jagan and whom he represented. He beat a hasty retreat after getting through a few words.

On the opening day of the Conference, seamen broke the official peacefulness by demanding "Jobs for Unemployed Seamen." The compromise solution on which these good W.I. politicians agreed leaves the immigration ordinance intact, with their right to exclude West Indians on so-called security grounds.

Cheddi Jagan, who is banned in almost all the West Indian territories, remains banned. So, too, with the rest. The "good politicians" will be free to travel and arrange their opportunist alliances, and carry out their dirty work against the people. At the end of five years, depending on the temper of the people, they will take their next step. (C.P.N.S.)

Polio strikes

KINGSTON (Jamaica).—A total of 761 cases of poliomyelitis were reported in Jamaica last year. In the first two months of this year there were 37 new cases. ("The Times," 24/3/55.)

Read all about

LIFE IN THE SOVIET UNION

in this magnificent magazine

48 BIG PAGES every month!

SCORES OF PHOTOGRAPHS —MANY IN COLOUR

Annual Subscription 15/-

COLLET'S BOOKSHOPS

44 & 45 Museum Street, London, W.C.1

Jamaican Movement

IT has been announced that the founding conference of the People's Freedom Movement will take place on Saturday, April 30th, and Sunday, May 1st.

The P.F.M. was started six months prior to general elections in Jamaica, and stood two candidates with a programme for radical social and economic advancement for the Jamaican people.

The Movement publishes a paper called "Freedom."

CARIBBEAN NEWS 6d.

May ★ ★ 1955

Guiana Workers against bosses' union

Mr. Ashton Chase is the former Minister of Labour in the P.P.P. Government of Guiana, and is secretary, B.G. Labour Union

THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION which was sent to British Guiana following the revocation of the Constitution by the Tory Government devoted several pages of its report to the trade union movement. Its main preoccupation was with regard to the workers engaged in the sugar industry, more

By ASHTON CHASE

than 75 per cent of whom are supporters of the Guiana Industrial Workers' Union (G.I.W.U.), which is not recognised by the Sugar Producers' Association. The recognised union is the Manpower Citizens' Association (M.P.C.A.)—a weak and vacillating body.

The Commission finds that the G.I.W.U. is a breakaway union and therefore holds that according to traditional standards it should not be supported. The Commission insinuates that the leadership of this

continued on page 3

Honduran women oppose horror comics

BELIZE, British Honduras, City Council has agreed to send to the Central Government a request by the Honduras Federation of Women to find out if crime and horror comics could be banned under the Undesirable Literature Ordinance of 1954.

The Council also passed an amendment expressing its support for the resolution.

MORE TELEPHONES FOR ST. LUCIA

CASTRIES.

AT an estimated cost of $33,000, St. Lucia's telephone switchboard capacity is to be increased from 200 instruments to a total of 450 instruments. It is estimated the project will be completed in six months. More Lucians will then be saying "Hello."

Vincentian Cane Cutters in Action

From Alma Johnson

KINGSTOWN, February 15th (delayed).

THE Mt. Bentinck workers have again struck for recognition of their union. The cane cutters on this score are making a wage demand of 84 cents per ton for cutting canes.

Mt. Bentinck Estates Ltd. are sole producers of sugar in the island of St. Vincent. This company is managed by all the big planters and estate owners, who deny any trade union representation for their workers. By a well-calculated plan of victimisation and exploitation, the Mt. Bentinck succeeds in bringing off their cane crops every year.

The wages paid on the island are the lowest paid to workers in the whole of the West Indies. For the past three cane crops there were disputes between the management of these estates and the workers because of the very low wages paid to the latter. This time the 1954-55 crop is no exception.

The estates have again shown their determination to defy the workers and the union of their choice, and to deny them a living wage despite the huge profits made during 1952, 1953, and 1954.

The strike of cane cutters is now approaching its third week. The general manager of the company, after a wave of correspondence, met the president of

continued on page 5

★ EDITORIAL ★

No Freedom of Movement

WEST INDIAN Federation, Colonial Office style, is being worked out true to form—nothing but a bigger Crown Colony, as "Caribbean News" has indicated time and again.

Undoubtedly, local politicians will be gratified with their positions in the Federal Government, and will swell out with pride at the thought of being looked upon as slightly more dignified pawns in British imperialism's system of rule over our people—this rule which puts so much profit into the hands of the foreign money bags, as shown the hands of the foreign moneyb—ags, as shown in our previous issue.

Though Federation should bring unity to the Caribbean, nevertheless underlying all the talks and conferences has been the struggle and rivalry between these lower ranks of "rulers," contending each to put his respective territory in the limelight with the most privileged position, even at the expense of others.

For a long time now, small-minded politicians in Trinidad have been trying to keep out West Indians from other territories like Jamaica and Barbados.

They claim to be protecting Trinidad from being flooded with unemployed workers. But their shortsightedness is the same as that of those people in Britain who are now raising the same question over West Indian workers coming to look for work.

But these people are looking in the wrong direction and completely missing the boat, as they don't seem to see that the united struggle of all the workers is necessary to maintain and improve their conditions.

And the same pig-headed attitude by West Indian politicians is the sure way of getting nowhere fast.

The latest development in the Federation story is that the Conference on Inter-migration has recommended that restrictions on travel be removed "as far as possible," but each unit can make its own regulations subject to being passed by both Houses of the Federal Legislature, which does not alter the situation much.

Significantly, however, the Conference recommended the retention of bans for "security and health" reasons. So the position will remain the same in relation to travel between the units of militant trade unionists, politicians, and others whom the bosses fear.

This, above all, emphasises the servile state in which we are to remain and exposes the hollowness of this great Federation.

For, applied to a supposedly unified nation, these bans are but the equivalent of the restrictive zoning under the Emergency Regulations in Guiana.

Is this a step forward or backward?

Is our West Indian Federation to be just a bigger version of the Guiana model of the Police State?

Protect us from our guardians

TALKING about "security," we learn—as reported on this page—that Trinidadians are going to pay out $700,000 every year towards the cost of a new West India Regiment. Other West Indians will also be paying about 1 per cent of annual revenue for . . . for what?

Now let's see—what hordes threaten to attack us and destroy our "liberties"? Can it possibly be that the money will be spent to safeguard the security of Guianese against the British troops stationed there? . . . But no, you don't expect the imperialists to be such fools, of course not.

Then the only reasons for the existence of the British West India Regiment would be to see that West Indians don't decide to take over their country, and as an adjunct to the British rulers for use in their wars.

In any case, it seems that we are to pay to keep our country secure **for** foreign rule and exploitation.

And just think what $700,000 a year could do if spent in the interests of Trinidad's working people.

For one thing it could provide about 350 dwellings at $2,000 each. And how about some "development"?

Caribbean News
Monthly Newspaper
obtainable from
CENTRAL BOOKS LTD
2 Parton Street, W.C.1.

Trinidad Cement Workers Take Note

From our Financial Wizard

THE City Editors of the London national Press went all agog on the last day of February. These apologists for capitalist exploitation whooped with joy at the very cunning move by Mr. Halford Reddish, big boss of RUGBY PORTLAND CEMENT. He is reported to have allotted 500,000 shares to his 1,200 employees.

Are Trinidadian workers included? You know the outfit there which is supported by British Government capital, known as the Colonial Development Corporation.

In that amazing building (or so they would let us believe) in London called the Stock Exchange, the shares referred to above, which have a nominal value of 1s. each and are known as "A" Shares, are now reported to fetch 25s. each.

This place in Throgmorton Street deals in millions and millions of pounds, literally at the stroke of a pen. They buy and sell from each other stocks and shares in rubber, oil, tin, timber, chemicals, engineering, etc., and **cement**. Don't get the idea that these people work at digging, watering, hammering, planning, designing, or machine-operating or any other useful job; no, fellows, we do the work!

SITTING PRETTY

Trinidadian workers dig the cement, Trinidadian accountants check quantities and pay cash, Trinidadian workers drive and load trucks, Trinidadian, British, Indian, Chinese seamen ship the product. But we stay poor and they go rich. I now learn that the Reddish workers, by virtue of their reported ownership of the Reddish "A" Shares, are alleged to "own" £312 10s. of capital.

So now says the "Daily Express" correspondent (28/2/55): "It makes all Rugby workers capitalists. . . ." Okay, you boys in San Fernando, you should be sitting pretty—write and let me know, won't you?

SUGAR IS STILL NEWS

—ask Mr. G. Vernon Tate, M.C., Chairman, WEST INDIES SUGAR COMPANY.

"We have had another successful year. . . ."

That is, **net** profits rose by £44,294 up to £388,573. This, of course, arises from underpaying the JAMAICAN sugar workers for their labour. Even further, in this complex age of politicians buying trade union support, the Bustamante leadership is exposed by Mr. Tate, who cheerily reminds his fellow shareholders that the **excess profits levy** was abolished from December 31st, 1953. He had even put aside £122,000 for this tax, but now that's all "bunce" or "braater" for the sugar barons.

How much the sugar workers could have done with this!

Things go so well for TATE that he has put 25 per cent of the interest in the new shipping company. SUGAR LINE LIMITED, who are building six ships for carrying sugar **cargoes.**

Simultaneously with all this good news of capitalist plunder, the foreign exploiters are confronted with their own international cartels, which **limit** production in order to maintain high market prices. Tate refers to the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement, and states: "Jamaica's production, including our own, will have to be **limited."**

No better proof that these infidels can make **no** claim to organising or maintaining industry or agriculture in this modern age.

What about it, trade unionists?

. . . AND AGAIN

—ask the Managing Director of JAMAICA SUGAR ESTATES.

Profits have gone up £10,886 to £125,765.

They only paid out an Ordinary dividend of 7 per cent **tax free,** which is £7 given to every shareholder who held £100 shares.

But one might ask: "Why not more?"—the cash is there. Well, they know a lot more about accounting than most of us. Look—this year they put £20,000 to what is called **General Reserve.** What's this?

Well, the announcement is that the Directors are applying to the CAPITAL ISSUES COMMITTEE for permission to make a "scrip issue" of Ordinary Shares on a one-for-one basis. In everyday language for you and me, all these spare funds put to reserve have accumulated sufficiently to give each and every shareholder, **free,** the same amount of shares he already held again. This is all **tax free**! Had they paid it out in dividends annually, it would have been liable to income tax.

See what the nation has lost?—that's you and me.

JAMAICA OIL SELL-OUT

MONTEGO BAY (April): For the first time in history, OIL prospecting in JAMAICA is in full swing.

Basemetals of Montreal, Canada, started off at Negril Point and have other carefully selected spots for immediate attack.

The Manley team of puppets now sitting in the Elected Assembly are rushing through legislation to compel landowners, large and small, to sell land to these Americans and American-backed Canadians. Many Jamaicans see the ominous shadow of the ravenous eagle robbing us of our land; some, more mercenary, are only holding back in search of higher prices. These people are the stumbling-block in the grand sell-out.

Little did Jamaicans and other West Indians realise that this was to be the outcome of election promises of a Geological Survey. This is the "development" the P.N.P. way!

LETTER BOX

My Desire

Dear Editor,

Your letter and "News" of the 3rd arrived safely, and I must say how happy I am to have the issue of March-April; and more, also, that if I only agree I will be able to have my desire—the annual issue.

I am also thankful for extra suggestions as a critic, and I regard my paper as my mouthpiece.

Again I say thanks for this paper that I was just longing for.

Enclosed please find 6s. for an annual subscription.

Hertfordshire Nurse.

* * *

Like the new reader above, several new subscriptions have come in for "Caribbean News" in recent weeks. Why don't **you** take one also, and get your paper regularly post free?—Editor.

Guns before Butter

TRINIDAD'S contribution towards the formation of a British West India Regiment will be about $700,000 annually, representing 1 per cent of the Colony's annual revenue. Other participating Governments will also contribute 1 per cent of their annual revenue.

This decision was agreed by the Finance Committee when studying proposals for the formation of a West India Regiment. The proposals call for a first battalion of four companies to be formed by reconstituting the existing Jamaica Regiment, three of which will be stationed in Jamaica and the other in British Honduras; the second battalion will comprise three companies to be recruited locally and will be stationed in Trinidad, with one company in the Windward Islands.

The War Office will exercise control of the local force, which will be recruited with officers and men from all the participating Colonies, and the regiment will be organised as a mixed West Indian force. It is stated that at the initial stages the War Office will second several officers to the new force. (From Trinidad Information Office Bulletin.)

JOIN THE C.L.C. NOW AND STRENGTHEN THE FIGHT

Post to the Secretary, Caribbean Labour Congress (L.B.), 3 Robert Street, N.W.1.

I wish to become a member and enclose subscription of .....s. .....d. (5/- per year payable either in full or two sums of 2/6.)

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

At the Festival you will meet young people like these, from Poland, Czechoslovakia and Germany — and from over a hundred other countries besides

Greet Youth with Friendship and Laughter

"A GREAT and joyful meeting between youths throughout the world, it was unforgettable for most of us, but for me it was the most thrilling experience of my life. . . ." Thus said Irma Hillaire, delegate from the Trinidad and Tobago Youth Council to the Fourth World Youth Festival in Bucharest.

And this is what a young Guianese, Carlton Bayley, had to say: "The thing that impressed me most at the Festival was the Rumanians' approach to a black man, hospitable and sweet, not as if he was an inferior being or savage, not with frowning looks or hateful eyes, not with shameful steps nor

By TREVOR CARTER

with the approach of brutish Fascism, as experienced by many of us in England, America, and South Africa; but with a humanitarian approach that could only be displayed by nations which stand for peace and friendship the world over."

In this year's Festival in Warsaw lies the opportunity for us West Indians to live through the remarkable experiences of Carlton Bayley and Irma Hillaire. There is also the chance of taking part in the sporting and cultural competitions.

The Youth and Student Committee of the C.L.C. (L.B.) has recently formed a song and dance group. This group is going to bring to youth at the Festival calypsos and dances of the West Indies. Students will have the chance of meeting others in their field.

If we can just take a brief glimpse into the future, and see ourselves being greeted by the Polish youth with hands outstretched in friendship, shining eyes, words and laughter. If we can see ourselves in the beautiful parks, magnificent stadiums, cultural palaces, theatres, and movies, making friends and exchanging greetings with young people from China, Africa, the Soviet Union, India, and from every other imaginable country.

Today more than ever we need the comradeshp that the Festival offers. As Colonials it is heartening to us to know that we are not isolated in our struggle to throw off the yoke of imperialism.

Apart from the gaiety and enjoyment, world peace is the main aim of the Festival. We West Indians sometimes take a very dim view on world peace we fail to see its importance. Those of us who think we are safe should remember the American guided-missile bases in the Turks and Caicos Islands, Trinidad, and St. Lucia. We should remember that in this era of nuclear weapons and the H-bomb the existence of mankind on the whole is threatened.

Strike a blow

Therefore, by supporting the aims of the World Federation of Democratic Youth, under whose auspices the 5th World Youth Festival for Peace and Friendship is held, you will be striking not only a blow against the British and American warmongers, but against our hated imperial masters, thus quickening our achievement of National Independence.

The Festival will be taking place from July 31st to August 14th. The fee for this splendid holiday is £33 for three weeks and £29 for two weeks. For further details write the Youth Organiser, C.L.C. (L.B.), 3 Robert Street, N.W.1.

* * *

West Indian representative, St. Kitts-born Chris Birch, was nominated by the British Festival Committee as the British representative to the International Preparatory Festival Committee. He and his wife, Betty, and his 14-month-old son, Frank, left England during the early part of April to start this important work.

TRADE UNION STRUGGLE

from page 1

union has no interest in the industry or in the industrial welfare of the workers; and that since it supports the People's Progressive Party (P.P.P.) it is merely an instrument of that body.

What are the facts? The M.P.C.A. was established in the late 30's to represent sugar workers who had hitherto been organised in the B.G. Labour Union, a general union. After some time, it was recognised by the Sugar Producers' Association and entered into agreements on behalf of the workers. Its short record of service is marred by a number of sell-outs to the bosses. Time and again the workers' rights have been compromised; their legitimate claims backpedalled; and their grievances ignored. Dissatisfaction in the union was rife. Its membership fell to such a low figure that it was really not representative of the workers in the industry. Dissatisfaction among the workers in the industry was widespread. Their wages were, and still are, miserably low; housing conditions, sanitation, conditions of labour, and welfare leave much to be desired.

BOSSES' BOYS

However, so long as a leadership subservient to the employers can be maintained in a union, the employers are prepared to recognise and deal with that union. It is clear that their recognition of the union is dependent upon the leadership being one that they could twiddle with their thumbs. Nine years ago, when the waterfront workers elected a militant leadership, the shippers (of sugar) withdrew their recognition of the union. Thus, such is the state of recognition of workers' rights in the Colony that the employers had the effrontery to tell the waterfront workers who should be their leaders.

Efforts were made within the M.P.C.A. to have its leadership changed. All efforts foundered. The fact is that the rules of this organisation were highly undemocratic, and it was impossible under its Constitution to effect a change in leadership. For example, the president and secretary of the union were elected by the district officers, who were appointed by the president and secretary. Consequently, district officials were removed from office as soon as they proved untrustworthy, and only those on whom the leading officers could rely to vote them back into office held posts at election time.

It was frustration over the efforts to change the leadership from within the union and the horrible conditions within the industry that led to the formation of the G.I.W.U. six years ago. It is true that some of the more undemocratic features of the rules of the M.P.C.A. have now been removed and it may be possible to secure a change from within. But these changes are very recent. Only one election has been held under them for the office of secretary. So much bitterness has developed in the meantime between the two organisations, and the workers have come to regard the M.P.C.A. as a stooge or scab union, that it is impossible at this late hour to influence the workers to join the M.P.C.A. Moreover, it is known that the M.P.C.A. has accepted financial help from the sugar magnates!

No one denies that breakaway unions are bad, but in circumstances such as these there is no alternative.

WORKERS' INTERESTS

The accusation that the leadership of the G.I.W.U. has no interest in the industrial welfare of the workers is grossly unfair. Their interest is the very foundation out of which the union was born for industrial purposes. It is true that the president is a medical practitioner, but he isn't from a family of medical practitioners or professionals. His family roots are in the sugar industry, and so also are those of any other officers who may not be directly working in the sugar industry.

Two other important replies should be made in response to this malicious charge: One, in dealing with trained industrialists, the weaker arms of our movement require some help. Further, to assume leadership of a trade union in British Guiana exposes the workers to victimisation. The history of our trade union movement is replete with cases of workers who have suffered from victimisation and other unfair labour practices for taking a leading role in their trade unions.

In some cases—for instance among municipal workers—the employees are not permitted to make representations during working hours, even though the union undertakes to pay for the time off. Only when the employees feel they should be on a deputation are they permitted time off. The second point (and this is in answer to defenders of the M.P.C.A.) is that the M.P.C.A. itself is officered, and has been officered ever since, by men who are not actively engaged in the sugar industry. Lawyers have held the office of president of this "union," and its present president is a high-school teacher.

CONFIDENCE

There is hardly need to say much about the connection between the G.I.W.U. and the P.P.P. The G.I.W.U. proudly and rightly supports the P.P.P., which is the only working-class party in the Colony. The accusation against the G.I.W.U. is similar to the Tory accusation against the Labour Party, which has the support of the trade union movement here. The workers in British Guiana recognise the close tie between the struggle for better living standards and the struggle against colonialism.

One thing is clear even to defenders of the company union (M.P.C.A.), and that is the workers' support for the G.I.W.U. They have full confidence in their union. They have shown their support by demonstrating their solidarity in strike struggles to win recognition. Despite these facts, however, the M.P.C.A. receives financial help from the I.C.F.T.U. and is now to get further help from the British T.U.C. No help, however, can wipe out its bad and unhappy past, or cause a break in the workers' unity and confidence in the G.I.W.U.

It is even possible in today's circumstances of intense intimidation and wholesale dismissals, the nominal membership of the M.P.C.A. is greater than that of the G.I.W.U. One must add also that the M.P.C.A. includes workers other than sugar workers —for example, a handful of ricefield workers and general workers—although the G.I.W.U. entirely specialises in the sugar industry. Should the figures even give a predominance to M.P.C.A., the successful strike on eleven of the largest estates for nine weeks is of sufficient proof to show which way a plebiscite would weigh, should the opportunity for one be given by the sugar barons.

A free plebiscite in the industry will show where the faith of the workers lies. Such a plebiscite has been called for on more than one occasion, but because the results will obviously be in favour of a union whose leadership is above bribery and corruption, it has never been held. So the struggle goes on.

'INDUSTRY CANNOT PAY'

From our TRINIDAD Reporter

A BOARD OF INQUIRY has been announced by Governor Rance, after consultation with the C lonial Office, to go into the dispute between the Federation of Unions of Cane Farmers and Sugar Workers, and the Sugar Manufacturers' Association. The employers are contending that the demands on manufacturers would cost $17 million, which they claim the industry cannot pay.

The union's case is based on sugar and its by-products. The Board of Inquiry includes Dr. D. T. Jack, member of the Independent Industrial Disputes Tribunal in the U.K., and Mr. A. I. Espley and Mr. G. B. Thorneycroft, representing employers and workers respectively.

SECRET REFORM

The West Indian Independence Party has protested to the Constitution Reform Committee against the holding of its meetings in secret and has asked the Committee to reconsider and reverse its decision. We are reliably informed that the decision was taken by a 21–8 majority of the heavily nominated Committee on a motion from elected Hon. A. P. T. James, Vice-President of the Trinidad Labour Party. The other T.L.P. member of the Committee, elected Hon. R. Quevedo, refrained from voting.

YOUTH PREPARE

The Trinidad and Tobago Youth Council convened its first Preparatory Committee in connection with the 5th World Festival of Youth and Students on Sunday, March 20th. Its decisions will be communicated to the International Festival Preparatory Committee.

* * *

'First Coloured Priest'

REV. DR. MARCUS JAMES, a Jamaican, has been appointed diocesan chaplain in Birmingham. Dr. James was formerly associate chaplain to Anglican students at London University.

"Christian Action," of which Dr. James is a Council member, issued a statement saying:

"It is the first time a coloured priest has been appointed to the post of diocesan chaplain in the English Church. In Birmingham, where there have been racial difficulties recently, it will be regarded as evidence of the Church's opposition to racial intolerance."

* * *

NEW SERVICE LINKS ST. KITTS

The s.s. "West Indian" (formerly "Wingsang"), of the West Indies Navigation Co. Ltd., will commence her first voyage from Trinidad on the 20th inst. She will proceed via the Islands and is due at St. Kitts on the 27th inst., sailing the same day direct for Jamaica. On her southbound voyage she will call at St. Kitts on February 3rd.

Messrs. H. F. Wildy & Co. Ltd. are the local agents. ("The Democrat.")

Corrections

The following printers' errors should be noted in the March-April issue of "Caribbean News":

On page 4—"My Fabulous Jewels," by Billy Strachan:

1. Read "Oil moguls had secured exploration leases for a marine area of 900,000 acres" (Trinidad)—instead of 9 million.

2. Guiana produces 240,000 tons of sugar, not a milli n as stated.

3. Jamaica and Guiana are estimated to have 90 per cent of the bauxite deposits in the capitalist world—not 9 per cent as stated.

SAVE THIS WOMAN'S LIFE

THE life of a West Indian woman is in danger in the political prison of the United States. An appeal issued by the Women's International Democratic Federati n says:

William L. Patterson, General Secretary of the Civil Rights Congress, has addressed an urgent appeal to the W.I.D.F. and the women of the world to save the life of Claudia Jones, outstanding Negro woman leader, who has been sentenced to one year in prison for her active leadership for the rights of women and for peace. Mr. Patterson says in part:

"A helpless political prisoner, victim of the Smith Act, Claudia Jones, is seriously ill in the Federal Reformatory for Women at Alderson, Virginia (U.S.A.). Antedated by arrested tuberculosis, she suffers from congestive heart attack, asthma, high blood pressure, and more recently from severe headaches, a new symptom. These conditions are attested to by her physician, confirmed by tests made in a New York hospital. She does not get the salt-free diet mandatory for her condition.

Protest

"If Claudia Jones dies in prison, not only will American justice be sullied with a deep, ineradicable stain, but to tolerate the consummation of such a crime will be an everlasting reproach to everyone who, aware of this tragic possibility, maintains an unprotesting silence."

The W.I.D.F. has sent a cablegram of protest to the Hon. Herbert Brownell, Attorney-General of the U.S.A., Washington, D.C., against this "cruel punishment," demanding in the name of 140 million in 67 countries that "danger to her life be removed by suspending her sentence, and that she be permitted to apply for an exit visa to her native British West Indies."

The W.I.D.F. calls upon all women and women's organisations to protest and help save the life of Claudia Jones.

Claudia Jones is from Trinidad, and we urge all West Indians to send their protests to the American Embassy, calling for the release of this heroic daughter of our people. and her return to her homeland.

Carnival

THIS year, Carnival was again celebrated in Trinidad with a splash of colour, tunes, costumes, steel bands—the lot.

February 21st and 22nd were the two days when Trinidadians let themselves loose in the streets, squares, and parks in the traditional masquerade of a really people's holiday.

"Carnival Queen of 1955" was to be chosen from among 15 contestants, and the "Queen" chosen was 18-year-old Miss Angela Graham, and among the prizes awarded her was a Hillman Californian car. She was then expected to go on a "publicity tour" of Canada.

Chosen as the "Band of the Year" in South Trinidad were the Hatters, portraying the "World's Peace Conference," in which were represented the world's chief statesmen from both East and West.

* * *

DUBIOUS GIFT

THE United States Government today announced a gift of $9,000,000 to Britain to help her to buy United States surplus stocks of fresh citrus and tinned fruits. ("Manchester Guardian," 12/4/55.)

HAS YOUR BRANCH MET RECENTLY?

Trade Unionists?
Peacemongers??
Cultural Groups???

We have small rooms to LET, Mondays to Fridays at reasonable prices

Write: League of Coloured Peoples, Ltd.,
3, Robert Street, N.W 1

BOOK WORLD

West Indian Citrus Industry

"Report of Fact-Finding Mission"
Col. No. 314 (1955)
Her Majesty's Stationery Office—4s.

FOR how much longer must we tolerate this super-humbug?

The British Tory Government appointed five men and provided a secretary "to examine the present organisation and future plans and prospects of the West Indian citrus industry . . . in particular the costs. . . ."

Glancing back through "Caribbean News," one sees in the July, 1954, issue, "Under the spreading Citrus Tree," just why our citrus production remains a dead duck; and if we kick against the imperial master, he weakly replies that he did not want to be wicked, but had to sign the **Economic Co-operative Agreement** of April 16th, 1948. In brief, we are paying for the aid (?) that crippled Britain bought!

Britain agreed with others to use $250,000,000 for "surplus agricultural commodities, or products thereof, in the U.S.A."

Are we poor?

No matter how the story spreads that West Indians cannot compete for a variety of reasons, we know the truth.

So why the lying propaganda?

We have to be continuously told how poor, how weak, how backward we really are. The problem is that even if some tub-thumping politicians like Manley, Gomes and others are willing to run to bend their knee, millions are shouting for our freedom, our **ind_pendence.**

This report on the citrus industry admits that Jamaica's annual production alone will be 2,310,000 boxes of sweet oranges and 300,000 boxes of grapefruit by 1959. That's a mere million pounds sterling or W.I. $4,200,000 (at today's prices)!

And to show that somebody is relying on this, one might refer to Sir Robert Barlow, of the Metal Box Co. Ltd. Since 1951 he set up a plant there without enticement, just to produce the basis for packaging and shipping oranges and grapefruit. Craftier, even, in paragraph 212 the report tells us that "application has also been made for pioneer status to manufacture polythene taping for banana wraps."

"Pioneer status" is a term used to cover the legislation passed by West Indian politicians in subservience to Britain which permits income tax and Customs duty relief or exemption for foreign business men who want to come in and **take out.**

The report is a hotch-potch of very badly worded and compiled facts on our economic possibilities in agriculture.

Mr. J. C. Gardiner, F.C.A., the Tories' handyman on this occasion, is going to be in trouble with Sir James Robertson, K.C.M.G., K.B.E.

Who's Kidding

Robertson, less than six months ago, in the **British Guiana Constitutional Commission** (Cmd. 9274) said in paragraph 21:

"Many brought to our notice the struggle for livelihood in conditions of unemployment and under-employment; the squalor of much of the housing; the scarcity of agricultural land. . . ."

Gardiner in February, 1955, finds the problem of a West Indian capitalist in the citrus industry is "faced with a high level of costs, arising primarily from the relatively high standard of living enjoyed by the peoples of the West Indian territories, when compared with the native population of many other tropical countries."

What a comparison!

Why do West Indians outnumber other Colonies emigrating?

The more they talk, the deeper these masters of double-talk enmesh themselves; and this report, far from succeeding in what it obviously aimed to do, will be relegated to the archives of a dying system of colonialism.

The only valid sentence was in paragraph 19, subsection (d), which said: "In the event of American citrus fruit and the fruit products becoming freely available in the U.K. market, West Indian produce seems likely to be driven out of that market."

Whoa! to the worshippers of the Yankee dollars! All hail to the fighters for independence, peace, and real prosperity!

Billy Strachan

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Cuban workers win

THE workers of the big Delicias and Chapanra sugar concerns—owned by the powerful U.S. company, Cuban American Sugar—went on strike in the middle of November following the arbitrary dismissal of 300 workers in violation of an agreement signed between the company and the union. Their united action, backed by all the people, went on for a number of weeks and was conducted in two stages: first, for the reinstatement of the workers, and then, when the company agreed to take them back to work on the night shift, for a 50 per cent wage increase for the workers reinstated—an increase corresponding to night-work rates as required by the labour legislation.

Despite savage police repression (occupation of trade union offices, arrest of leaders, attempts to force the workers back to work, etc.), the strike was successful and ranks as a major event in the struggle of the Cuban working class during the last few years.

Hunger in Tunisia

UNEMPLOYMENT is reaching disturbing proportions in Tunisia. Out of a total population of 3,500,000, nearly 600,000 are unemployed.

In textile mills, brickyards, especially at the Belaish and Gozlan firms, in the Koskas and Abitol, and Stim flour mills, dismissals are increasing. As a result of mechanised farming, more than half the agricultural labour force has been sacked. The mining companies' decision to increase work tasks has caused a large number of miners to be dismissed.

Everywhere the unemployed are organising to defend their right to work. Big demonstrations outside the offices of the local authorities have taken place in Tunis and other towns, involving hundreds and sometimes thousands of unemployed workers.

In Tunis and its suburbs, unemployed workers, completely without resources for weeks, seized loaves of bread in the bakery shops. This also happened in Souk el Arba, where the police used tear gas, and in other places.

DOCKERS IN KENYA VICTORIOUS

ON March 3rd, 7,000 African dock workers in the port of Mombasa struck work. They were joined by another 3,000 workers in oil companies, a brewery, a transport firm, an aluminium firm, and in the power station.

This strike for higher wages and against the increased cost of living, taking place in the present conditions in Kenya with the British colonial powers waging a brutal war of extermination against the local population, is a heroic action. The strike was unofficial, since the employers refuse to recognise the dock workers' union. The demand was for 2s. a day increase.

After six days, during which a number of arrests were made and troops and police were flown into the area, the dockers returned to work on the basis of an interim offer of 6d. a day increase and a promise that their full demand would go to arbitration.

(Two-thirds of the African dockers get only £1 a week for a 50 to 54-hour week. Even the best paid get only £1 15s. a week.)

Tunisian workers come en masse to funeral of victim of colonial repression

Less Money for Vincentian Farmers

THE Federated Industrial and Agricultural Workers' Union is making a move to protect cane farmers and the price they get for canes (writes our St. Vincent correspondent).

The price for a ton of canes in St. Vincent is the lowest in the B.W.I. It is placed as low as $10.50 up to the 1954 crop. As usual, the smaller peasants, who were always used as weapons against the workers to start cutting canes without any consideration as to the value of canes, were given notices to cut. The Mt. Bentinck made a reduction to cane farmers of 50 cents per ton on an already small price without informing the peasants of this reduction.

The first indication they had of this was when claims were issued for payment. There is rife dissatisfaction among the cane farmers—a dissatisfaction in which the Government disclaims any responsibility.

While it appears to us that it is orthodox British Government that rules us, a sad impression is ever before our eyes that this is Estate Plantation rule. To be truthful, from these happenings we liken our Government to a vast estate managed by the despotism of the estates and the whims and fancies of their owners.

for SUBSCRIBERS

ANNUALLY: 6/- per year, post free

all over the world

AIR RATES: 12/- per year, post free

Write

Circulation,
CARIBBEAN NEWS,
3 Robert Street, London, N.W.1.

Why the P.P.P. split

CHEDDI JAGAN sent this in reply to our request for a personal account of the split in the People's Progressive Party. — Editor

THE news of the P.P.P. split coming so soon after the dastardly act of the British Government must have been both shocking and distressing. The questi n probably uppermost in the minds of people is why it happened and how it happened.

Opportunism is the basis of the split. Despite the demagogy of L. F. Burnham, Dr. Lachhmansingh, and J. N. Singh about the struggle for national independence, etc., they have proved in this crisis that they are not prepared to make any sacrifices.

By his actions it is clear L. F. Burnham wanted at all costs to be leader of the Party. Once before he nearly precipitated a split. That was at the time of the selection of Ministers after the general elections, with his gauntlet of "leader or nothing." And while he was writing in the "Tribune" about breaking the restrictions and following me to prison, his followers were spreading propaganda to the effect that I was stupid to have done so.

SELF-IMPOSED

Dr. J. P. Lachhmansingh, president of the Guiana Industrial Workers' Union, fearing detention, placed on himself a self-imposed restriction on his movements. He entered politics at the age of 50, after he had been defeated (with lost deposit) in 1947.

He was expelled from the Party in 1950 for agreeing to head another party about to be formed by the then secretary of the T.U.C. The bait was the admission of the G.I.W.U. into the T.U.C. and aid for recognition from the sugar planters.

Jai Narine Singh also lost his deposit at the 1947 election, when I was a successful candidate He jumped lately on the P.P.P. bandwagon. As a Minister, he voted with us while in office to remove the bans on entry into Guiana of six West Indians. After the suspension of the Constitution, and when five militant leaders were detained, he voted to reimpose the bans. (We were relieved of our portfolios, but were technically still members of the Executive Council.)

But what, above all, alarmed them was the report of the Robertson Constitution Commission. Its principal recommendation was an "indefinite period of marking time." This they regarded as the "end of the line," as a period of hard work and sacrifices, which they were unwilling to make, and as a block to their resuming ministerial office.

UNREPRESENTATIVE

Taking the cue from the Robertson Commission, "so long as the present leadership and policies continue, there is no way in which any real measure of self-government can be restored in British Guiana," they railroaded at a depleted Executive Council meeting, at a time when prominent members were either imprisoned or restricted, a decision to hold a Congress of **members in Georgetown.**

Georgetown is the area where Burnham is strongest, and it is to be noted that in our country modes of transport are both difficult and expensive. Therefore, a members' Congress held there is not truly representative. This decision was contrary to the Constitution of the Party and a resolution passed at the last Congress in 1953. The main slogan of those wanting the Congress was: "Hold Party Congress, throw out extremists, have general elections."

To avert a split it was finally decided to call instead a Special Conference for the main purpose of amend-

(continued on page 6)

Vincentian Cane Cutters in Action from page 1

the union for talks yesterday, with the Labour Commissioner in attendance. The president, the Hon. E. T. Joshua, immediately conveyed the results of the conference to the committee of the workers, which went into all-night session to consider the discussions.

It was clear that the management is reluctant in meeting the pay claim of the workers to an 18 cents per ton increase, but the manager refrained from committing the company as to their offer. The workers decided to stand up for their claim.

P.P.P. Split

from page 5

ing the rules to permit election of members of the General Council by individual membership balloting in each constituency. The Emergency Order prohibits the holding of meetings and therefore the proper functioning of Party groups, election of delegates, etc.

Burnham, however, as Chairman of the Special Conference, deviated from the agenda and permitted the suspension of the standing rules and orders, a vote of no confidence in the Executive, and election of an Interim General Council.

As one columnist writing for the "Daily Chronicle" said, it was done "by a low rabbit punch which was intentionally delivered below the belt by the Moderates after both sides, having agreed, as men, to fight according to the terms of a fixed agenda, had signed on the dotted line."

The Editor of the "Daily Argosy," another big business paper, put it this way: ". . . The Jagans and their familiars were ousted from their positions of power by a series of planned moves ending in a neatly executed double-cross, which left them no choice but to get out or accept the mere crumbs of office."

TACTICS

We for our part will continue our struggle for national independence. Burnham, of course, will say the same thing. His policy is no different from ours, he says; the only difference is the question of tactics. In fact, his group, like others, has resorted to a witch-hunting campaign.

But tactics for what purpose, to what end? For getting back our Constitution, for gaining national independence, he asserts. He has failed to learn the Lyttelton doctrine and the lesson of Guatemala: that the British and U.S. imperialists will permit us to rule only if we rule in their interests.

I, for one, am not interested in any such proposition, in any such rule. The struggle goes on.

Grenada Taximen

GRENADIANS who drive taxis and motor transport have at long last organised themselves into a trade union to protect their interests.

It is called the Grenada Taxi and Motor Transport Drivers' Union, and is "for those persons who drive taxis and other vehicles plying for hire. Its officers are all persons directly engaged in this trade."

President is Mr. Cleophas Peters; Vice-President, Mr. Joseph Charles; and Secretary, Mr. Allan Greasley.

BYRON
REMINGTON
IMPERIAL
OLIVETTI
OLYMPIA
ROYAL
SMITH-CORONA

Portables and Standards
(elite and pica type)

★ ★ ★

MODERN TYPEWRITERS LTD.
52, EARLS COURT ROAD, W.8.
Please send me, without obligation, a FREE brochure with details

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

SPORTS

Football tour

THE grand display of the Trinidad Football XI which toured England in 1953 is surely the main reason for the powerful team selected by the F.A. of England to tour the West Indies this month.

The tour would be more of educational value to West Indian football than competitive.

TALKING POINTS ON SPORT
by Trevor Carter

Here's to hoping that emerging from this tour will be the consolidation of West Indian football unity.

★ ★ ★

SYLBERT "SHAY" SEYMOUR, one of the members of the Trinidad football team that toured England in 1953, is doing well as a professional with the Poole Town F.C. Shay's aggressive style is a great asset to his team's successes this year.

One critic had this to say: "This brilliant West Indian, who traded the sunny Caribbean for the damp climate of England, has put punch into the attack. We are glad to have him."

Pompey & Ramadhin

YOLANDE POMPEY and Sonny Ramadhin recently got married in England. Yolande Pompey, high-ranking contender for the world light-heavyweight title, married a Jamaican girl. He may fight Bermuda's Eddie "Polly" Smith in an elimination contest on the 9th of this month to get a crack at Randy Turpin, holder of the British Empire light-heavyweight title. Sonny Ramadhin, presently one of the world's most famous spin bowlers, married an English girl. Sonny is now representing the West Indies against Australia in the West Indies.

High Scorer

SIMPSON GUILLEN, Trinidad and West Indies wicketkeeper, now living in New Zealand, is chalking up some good scores there. He recently hit up 179 not out, playing against Old Boys, the champions, in one of New Zealand's club competitions. Judging from his constant scoring, Simpson surely could have represented New Zealand against England in the recent Test series, had it not been for a law which debars him until he has had four seasons.

NOTE THIS DATE

West Indians and friends are reminded that the A.G.M. of the Caribbean Labour Congress (London) will be held on Sunday, June 26th, at 2.30 p.m., at 3 Robert Street, N.W.1.

LEAGUE

THE League of Coloured Peoples Ltd. held its Annual General Meeting at its premises at 3 Robert Street, N.W.1, on Thursday, March 31st.

Outgoing President Mr. Julian Compton regretted that he was unable to offer himself for re-election owing to pressure of other commitments.

Mr. Billy Strachan is the new President.

CRICKET REVIEW

THE first Test ended in defeat for West Indies at Kingston, Jamaica. The Australians, who batted to a draw with Jamaica in their previous match, won by 9 wickets in the Test.

Apart from Walcott's 108 and 39, Smith was the only outstanding batsman, making 44 and 103. Other West Indies star bats did not shine. Lack of form and temperament among such players may be a good reason for the reorganisation of the team for the second Test in Trinidad.

Highlight of the Jamaica-Australia match was J. Smith's 169 and Binns's 151; Australia's A. R. Morris's 157, and C. McDonald's 73.

We still have great hopes in West Indies batsmen, and the match in Trinidad proves that we can expect big things from West Indies.

Scores of 57 and 150 not out by H. Furlonge and 95 by Jeff Stollmeyer show that better batting form is necessary for a West Indies victory.

But if there is a setback to West Indies cricket, the lack of, or failure to produce, a good pair of fast bowlers could be the reason. Young Frank King is the only fast bowler in the West Indies Test team today.

The second Test at Port of Spain, Trinidad, ended in a draw. In their first innings, West Indies were all out for 382 runs. Both Walcott and Weekes made centuries. Worrell did not play.

Australia in reply made 600 for 9 declared in their first innings; Miller, Morris, and McDonald made centuries against ineffective bowling.

When the game ended, the West Indies had scored 204 for the loss of four second innings wickets.

Carlton Bailey

We regret that, owing to shortage of space, the third article examining the problems of Federation by Billy Strachan has had to be held over until the next issue.—Editor.

ADVERTISEMENT RATES
7/6 per column-inch
15% discount for 6 consecutive ads.
Send to Advertisement Dept.
3 Robert Street, N.W.1.

Come to the
ROYAL HOTEL
Woburn Place
Tube: Russell Square Buses: 19,38,38a,68,68a,77,77a
to our
MAY DANCE
Saturday 7th. May, 7-30 till midnight
Tommy Eytle
and his Caribbean Rhythm
Members and their friends
Licensed Bar Buffet
Organised by Caribbean Labour Congress L.B.

BARRY'S
London's Leading Coloured Photographers
Let us photograph your
Weddings Parties
Groups Babies
Write Barry's
10, Bergholt Crescent, London, N.16

Published by R. Chandisingh, 30, Cambridge St., S.W.1.
X-Press Print, 1 Felixstowe Road, N.W.10.